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"RESPONSE UNDER 37 CFR 1.116-  
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE EXAMINING  
GROUP 1771"

DOCKET NO.: 197173US0PCT

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1771 AS

<b>OBLON</b>
<b>SPIVAK</b>
<b>McCLELLAND</b>
<b>MAIER</b> & <b>NEUSTADT</b>
P.C.

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22313

RE: Application Serial No.: 09/623,474  
Applicants: Masamoto UENISHI et al  
Filing Date: September 13, 2000  
For: COMPOSITE HOLLOW FIBER MEMBRANE AND  
METHOD OF PRODUCING THE SAME  
Group Art Unit: 1771  
Examiner: Victor CHANGE

RECEIVED  
JUL 10 2003  
GROUP 1700

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SIR:


Attached hereto for filing are the following papers:

**AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.116 WITH ATTACHED MARKED-UP COPY**

Our check in the amount of -0- is attached covering any required fees. In the event any variance exists between the amount enclosed and the Patent Office charges for filing the above-noted documents, including any fees required under 37 C.F.R §1.136 for any necessary Extension of Time to make the filing of the attached documents timely, please charge or credit the difference to our Deposit Account No. 15-0030. Further, if these papers are not considered timely filed, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 for the necessary extension of time. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,  
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.

  
Norman F. Oblon

Registration No. 24,618

Roland E. Martin

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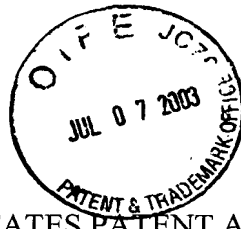


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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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IN RE APPLICATION OF

Masamoto UENISHI et al

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PRODUCING THE SAME

:

: GROUP ART UNIT: 1771

: EXAMINER: Victor CHANGE

:

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.116

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231

SIR:

In response to the final Office Action dated April 4, 2003, please amend the above-identified application as follows.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend Claim 1 as follows:

1. (Twice Amended) A composite hollow fiber membrane comprising three or more layers of membrane comprising a three-dimensional net structure comprising a plurality of micropores comprising stacked lamella and micro fibrils connected with the stacked lamella, wherein

one or more dense layer(s), said dense layer(s) being thinner than an outermost layer and an innermost layer and said dense layer(s) comprising micropores of a mean pore